

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Utah State Legislature can:

- A. Generate a driving presence within each state department and agency to be the example on how to respond to interpersonal violence with a positive culture by creating department policies and procedures. This would include distributing department policies, procedures and trauma informed response training to managers and supervisors and create and strengthen an atmosphere within all departments that interpersonal violence will not be tolerated. Install response information on every state employee's digital desktop. The site would include Prevention and Intervention Guidelines for State Employees along with Department Domestic and Sexual violence Policies including sexual harassment as approved by risk management.
- B. Create a law that gives any member of the public the right to ask the police if their partner, the partner of a close friend or the partner of a close family member may pose a risk to them. This will help people make a more informed decision on whether to continue a relationship and provide help and support when making that choice. The person will need to appear at a law enforcement agency in person where a police officer, victim advocate or member of police staff will take the details of what prompted your enquiry and talk them through the next steps. A safe means of contact will be established, and police staff will carry out some initial checks to make sure there are no immediate concerns, if there are, or if you tell the police a crime has taken place, they may act on them.
- C. Build a long-term commitment to end interpersonal violence by making sound funding and policy decisions that address the risks and protective factors of IPV. Policies that are shown to reduce interpersonal violence are ones that:
 - strengthen economic supports for families
 - increase access to housing and health care for everyone
 - increase access to quality childcare and preschool enrichment
 - mandating parenting skills and family relationship programs K-12
 - support prevention and public awareness
 - merge funding streams across departments to support interpersonal violence initiatives.
- D. Legislate parity for mental health.
- E. Support the Domestic Violence Offender Taskforce (DVOT). The DVOT is housed at the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. The charge for the DVOT is consistent and comprehensive evaluation, implementation and continued monitoring of domestic violence offenders at each stage of the criminal justice system. This is necessary to lessen the likelihood of re-offense, to work toward the elimination of recidivism and to enhance the protection of current survivors and potential victims. The DVOT is charged with the development, and endorsement of standards for the evaluation, treatment and monitoring of convicted domestic violence offenders and the establishment of an application and review process for approved therapists who provide services to convicted domestic violence offenders within the State of Utah.
- F. Recognize domestic violence is a significant adverse childhood experience (ACE) that has been shown to lead to critical negative health outcomes.
- G. Make Victim and community safety the highest benchmarks.

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